

## The Distillers' Charity Announces the Results of their Work to Transform Scottish Young People's Lives with the Release of Their Latest [Impact Report](#)



Action For Children | FARE | Enable Works

**Edinburgh, March 2026** - The Distillers' Charity is pleased to release their latest Impact Report for 2025, highlighting the remarkable results achieved by the Youth Action Fund over the past year. The Youth Action Fund was created by The Distillers' Charity in early 2022, following the spectacular success of the inaugural Distillers One of One® Auction. The Fund aims to support young people in Scotland, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to reach their potential and make a positive contribution to their communities. It is funded by proceeds from The Distillers One of One Auction, the biennial series of ultra-rare whisky auctions, made possible through the collective endeavour of the Scotch Whisky industry. 100% of the hammer price from each auction goes directly to charity, principally to the Youth Action Fund.

Having raised £6.6 million since the first auction, more than 4,258 young people have been engaged through the Youth Action Fund and have benefited from the work the fund's dedicated delivery partners have undertaken, dramatically increasing each young person's opportunities to enter the workforce. In the past year alone, 1,157 young people across 27 local authorities in Scotland have been engaged by the Youth Action Fund's portfolio charities. They have been provided with vital support where they might otherwise have faced significant barriers to entering the workforce, such as mental health, experience of trauma, or severe deprivation and poverty.

The cumulative employability outcomes for young people that the Youth Action Fund charities have achieved stands at 2,981 since its inception, with 1,007 in 2025 alone. These young people have significantly improved their long-term prospects, either securing employment (32%), progressing to further/higher education (30%), pursuing training, volunteering and apprenticeships (24%), or re-engaging with school (15%). The report also shows that last year, 5,952 progression milestones were achieved, including earning a recognised qualification, improving literacy and numeracy, and taking part in Alcohol Awareness Training (985).

These powerful results are a testament to the success of the programme and the commitment of the Scotch Whisky industry who have collectively united to support the Youth Action Fund in this vital work. Grant Gordon OBE, Chair of The Distillers' Charity, said: *"This is the fourth year that we're presenting the Distillers' Charity Impact Report and we're very proud to see the exceptional results that the Youth Action Fund has achieved to date, thanks to the impact of our delivery partners' work, and to the ongoing*



support of the Scotch Whisky industry. The Distillers One of One Auction series continues to raise a significant amount to help young people in Scotland achieve employability strengthening our communities.”

“The generous contributions of a wide range of Scotch Whisky companies generates the funding - through the Distillers One of One auction - that facilitates the important work of The Youth Action Fund. The Fund is making a real, tangible impact reaching and supporting young people facing significant disadvantages and barriers in some of the most deprived areas of Scotland, helping to transform their lives during some challenging times”, says Mark Kent, CEO at SWA.

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## **Case studies**

### **Karmela’s Journey with Street League**

On leaving school, Karmela attended a Street League information session, where she expressed strong interest in joining the programme. From the outset, Karmela demonstrated great enthusiasm and commitment — attending weekly sessions in the lead-up to the programme to start building relationships with our team. Karmela joined the 10-week programme, attending four days per week, and impressively did not miss a single day. This commitment is a true testament to her motivation, work ethic, and determination to succeed.

During her time on the programme, Karmela achieved an SCQF Level 4 qualification in Customer Service. She also took part in several work tasters, including placements with McTaggart Construction and Starbucks, as well as completing a First Aid refresher and attending a Nil by Mouth session. Karmela’s hard work paid off when she secured an interview with Starbucks following her taster day. She continued to push herself outside of her comfort zone by attending an interview coaching session and a dress & support session with our partners at Smart Works. Although she was not successful on that occasion, she received excellent feedback and remained positive and motivated.

Demonstrating resilience and perseverance, Karmela continued to seek opportunities, building her employability skills through our workshops, including interview preparation, employer expectations and communication. She was soon successful in gaining temporary Christmas employment with Smyths Toy Shop. Following the successful completion of this, Karmela got back in touch for further support and we have set her up with an opportunity at Taco Bell, which she is due to start in the next couple of weeks.

### **Callum’s Journey with Enable Works**

Callum is 24 years old and has a disability. Prior to joining the Next Steps programme, he had never worked. He currently has a support worker who assists him in navigating daily life. Callum successfully completed the 10-week Next Steps Employability Programme, achieving a Level 4 qualification. During the programme, he attended a workplace visit to Inveresk Lodge Garden, a National Trust site, where he demonstrated strong knowledge and enthusiasm for outdoor

environments. After meeting with the Head Gardener, he expressed interest in gaining experience through volunteering. Impressed by his passion and positive attitude, he was offered a volunteering position.

Callum has developed a wide range of practical gardening and horticultural skills, developing important employability skills, improving timekeeping, reliability, and ability to follow workplace expectations. He now communicates more confidently with staff and other volunteers, asks for support when needed, and works collaboratively as part of a team. The role has helped him build resilience, physical stamina, and a sense of responsibility. He has built strong friendships with other volunteers and developed a positive working relationship with the Head Gardener. His confidence has grown significantly.

Callum is now actively seeking paid employment within the gardening and horticultural sector, and thanks to support made possible through the Youth Action Fund, he is well on his way to securing his first job. "Being on the Next Steps programme has really helped me grow in confidence and believe that I can work in something I'm passionate about. I loved visiting Inveresk Lodge Garden and meeting the Head Gardener, and I couldn't believe it when I was offered a volunteering position. I've made lots of friends and learned new skills. I feel much more confident speaking to people now and I'm excited about working outdoors in the future. Enable has really helped me take my first steps towards a job I'd love to do."

## **Editors Notes**

### **About The Distillers' Charity**

The Distillers' Charity is the philanthropic arm of The Worshipful Company of Distillers, supported by the generosity of our Livery members, annual fundraisers, and the significant proceeds from The Distillers One of One.

The Charity's vision is to transform young people's lives, and those within the distilled spirits trade, helping them to reach their full potential, improve their life chances and make a positive contribution to their communities. The Distillers' Charity mission is manifested through three distinctive grant-making areas:

1. **Vocational Training & Education:** Inspired by the Livery's centuries-old tradition of preserving and advancing crafts, setting of standards, and passing of skills to future generations, the Distillers Vocational Training and Education (VTE) programme is dedicated to developing the next generation of talent in the spirits trade.
2. **City & Livery Giving:** Our vision is to enhance the Distillers' endeavours as a leading charity within the Livery movement, supported by the active involvement of members of our Company and engaged with the City of London. Our funding targets support for young people, including some from within our industry, helping them to thrive and realise their potential.
3. **Youth Action Fund:** This strategic initiative has been designed to help transform the life chances of young people in Scotland, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. It equips them with the skills and confidence to create positive and lasting change through achieving an employability outcome. This work is funded entirely by The Distillers One of One Auction.

The Distillers' Charity is a registered charity in England and Wales (no1193683) and Scotland (SC052075)

### **About The Distillers One of One® Auction**

#### **One of One® and Distillers One of One® are registered trademarks of The Distillers' Charity**

The Distillers One of One Auction is a biennial series of ultra-rare whisky auctions. The Auctions have raised a total of £6.6 million for charitable purposes since 2021 and uniquely, 100% of the fundraising goes to grant making, with 90% of that amount going to the Youth Action Fund and 10% going to The Distillers' Charity for its general charitable purposes.

With a total of 120 unique lots created across the past 3 auctions, 72 of which broke world sales records for the distilleries in question, the Distillers One of One has earned its reputation as a once-in-a-lifetime experience for collectors. Each lot is imbued with the spirit of craftsmanship and exclusivity, representing the pinnacle of Scotch whisky. No two bottles are the same, and no lot will ever be recreated - a powerful draw for the most discerning collectors.



The Distillers One of One® is a trading name of The Distillers' Ventures Limited, a company registered in England & Wales under company number 13264121 and registered office at 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE.

### **About the Youth Action Fund**

The Youth Action Fund is a flagship, industry-led initiative, established in 2022, following the resoundingly successful inaugural Distillers One of One Auction, which funds it exclusively. The Distillers' Charity collaborated with Inspiring Scotland to create a fund to make the best use of every pound raised, through working with leading charities to Transform Young People's Lives, with the aim of each individual young person engaged achieving employability.

It is an ambitious, long-term project targeting disadvantaged young people in Scotland, aged 16 – 25 years old, in areas of greatest need and aligned with the geographic footprint of the Scotch Whisky industry. This ensures that investment reaches young people in communities with relatively high levels of poverty where economic inactivity, disadvantage and barriers to opportunity are most acute — and where sustained, high-quality support can deliver the greatest return.

The Youth Action Fund continues to operate through a portfolio of five well-established delivery partner charities Aberdeen Foyer, Action for Children, FARE Scotland, Street League and Enable Works. These independent organisations work collaboratively to bring a blend of experience, skills, and a trusted community presence, ensuring meaningful and effective support for young people that the Fund engages. Additional support is delivered by The Talk About Trust, a charity which provides training to staff in reducing young people's risk associated with alcohol and substance misuse.

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